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NOTE VERBALE DATED 2 NOVEMBER 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF AUSTRIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Permanent Mission of Austria to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and with reference to Security Council resolutions 771 (1992) and 780 (1992) has the honour to communicate the following:

Austria has on many occasions expressed its abhorrence of the grave violations of human rights and norms of international humanitarian law, including war crimes and crimes against humanity, in the territory of the former Yugoslavia and emphasized the common responsibility of the members of the international community to see to it that those who have committed such crimes are brought to justice.

Austria therefore welcomed the request addressed to States and, as appropriate, international humanitarian organizations, by the Security Council in the aforementioned resolutions to collate substantiated information in their possession or submitted to them relating to such violations as well as the establishment of an impartial Commission of Experts to examine and analyse the information submitted pursuant to these resolutions.

In connection with the armed conflict in the territory of the former Yugoslavia a great number of refugees and displaced persons have either passed through Austria or still remain there. Many of these persons were questioned by the competent Austrian authorities and have given testimony regarding atrocities. Hundreds of thousands of pages of relevant information have been collected and computerized. This information, as it concerns asylum seekers, has been made available to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on a case-by-case basis. Thus, this information is already at the disposal of the United Nations and can be forwarded to the Commission of Experts established under Security Council resolution 780 (1992). Should the Commission or any other organ of the United Nations wish to obtain information from Austria directly such request would gladly be complied with at any time.

Furthermore, a great number of persons are at present remaining in Austria who have not yet made depositions to the competent Austrian authorities because they have not applied for refugee status. Such persons will be requested to submit any relevant information regarding atrocities committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia which will then be transmitted to the Secretary-General for forwarding to the Commission of Experts. In addition, the Austrian Government has instructed all reception centres to compile relevant information. The Austrian authorities will also forward to the Secretary-General any information on war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia they receive from other sources.